

NYMetroParents  
Presents:



125

Ideas for Summer Fun!

Presenting **125** fresh, fab, fun ideas for your family—from activities that take just a few minutes to all-day outings. Rest assured you'll never be at a loss for what to do this summer.



**1** Roll Into Summer.

What better way to roll smoothly into summer than on wheels? While we've got plenty of options for heading out in cars and on trains (read on), cruising along in the open air is what we're talking about here! If you've got a tot who's not quite ready for a two-wheeler yet, may we suggest the latest and hottest balance bike to hit our streets yet? FirstBike, designed for children 22 months to 5 years, comes to New York straight from Europe, where balance bikes have been in vogue for much longer than in the States—so you might say they've had time to perfect them.

FirstBikes are lightweight, the frames flex for comfort and posture support, and the “horse saddle” seat prevents kids from slipping off while riding downhill. The frame material won't rust like metal bikes and won't splinter like wood models. FirstBikes also feature a unique rear-drum braking system, making it “the safest balance bike ever,” according to Ralf Coerschulte, the avid German cyclist, product designer, and father of three behind the brand (most balance bikes lack a braking system at all or have a V-brake system that can pinch small fingers).

Most experts agree that balance bikes provide a smoother transition to

regular bike riding, as they provide an intuitive first experience of how to balance on a bike, and foster proper skills without the need for training wheels. Our 3-year-old tester gives FirstBike rave reviews—and more importantly, his parents do, too. “My son got on and it was smooth sailing right away. He cruised down the block with a huge smile on his face,” says father Michael Campanile, who lives in Brooklyn with his family. Even better? “He doesn't ask me to carry it home halfway through our outing, as he sometimes does with his scooter—but even if he did, I could swing this one, as it's not much to lug.”

FirstBike comes in four models, each with different tires appropriate to the surface your child rides on most often, and multiple colors. All come with a lifetime warranty on the frame and fork and a 5-year warranty on all parts. Pictured, top: FirstBike Street Red has air tires ideal for urban areas with concrete, stone, or packed dirt surfaces (\$159.99; [firstbike.us](http://firstbike.us)).

Read a Q-and-A with Coerschulte about the benefits of balance bikes, the joys of riding together as a family, and how to take safety seriously, at [nymetroparents.com/bal-bikes](http://nymetroparents.com/bal-bikes).

# 2



**Be safe:** Let kids customize their Wipeout Dry Erase Helmets with neon dry erase markers. They can start with a blank canvas every time they head out for a ride, and you can rest assured knowing they're protected. The helmets, manufactured by Triple Eight, are available in three sizes and certified for use on bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, and scooters. (Ages 3-11; \$29.99; available at Target and Toys "R" Us stores and on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com))

**Take lots of pictures** and don't let your summer memories fade. We recommend the latest from Canon, the EOS Rebel SL-1 (\$799; [usa.canon.com](http://usa.canon.com)), the world's smallest DSLR camera. Ideal for anyone who wants to step up their game from a smartphone or compact camera, this model performs well in low light conditions (birthday candles, anyone?) and capturing fast-action subjects (your star Little Leaguer, perhaps?). Image quality is impeccable, its 18.0 megapixels allow for major enlargements, and it's also got a high-end HD video movie mode—what more could you want? Oh, maybe to score one for free?! Enter to win the camera and more in the NYMetroParents 2013 Cover Contest at [nymetroparents.com/cover](http://nymetroparents.com/cover).



# 3

# 4

**Visit an indoor water park—**

whether it's raining outside or you just want the perks of summer without the sunburn, they're a great choice. Pick your fave at [nymetroparents.com/water-parks](http://nymetroparents.com/water-parks).

**LET EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY**

# 5

pick one event you all go to together. Browse the best of what's out there in the NYC area—most of it free!—at [nymetroparents.com/calendar](http://nymetroparents.com/calendar).



# 6

**Have a family movie night—and** don't forget the popcorn.

# 7

 Play flashlight tag.

# 8



**Make your own (no-cook!) playdough** with this easy recipe for ages 1 and older from *The Artful Parent* by Jean Van't Hul (Roost Books; \$21.95):

**Materials:**

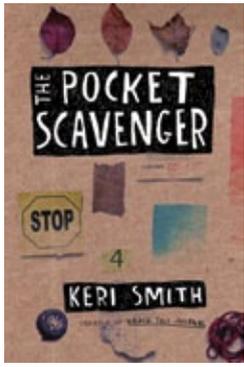
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- food coloring or liquid watercolors
- 2 cups boiling water

**Instructions:**

1. Mix all the dry ingredients in a medium bowl.
2. Make a well in the center and add the oil and food coloring.
3. Pour in the boiling water and mix well.
4. The mixture will look too goopy and wet at first, but let it sit for a few minutes; it will firm up as it cools.
5. Dump the dough onto the countertop and knead to form a ball.
6. Store the mixture in an airtight container.

The texture of this no-cook recipe is different and doesn't last as long as the cooked version (recipe available in book), but it's quicker and easier to make.

*From "The Artful Parent," by Jean Van't Hul, © 2013. Reprinted by arrangement with Roost Books, an imprint of Shambhala Publications Inc., Boston, MA ([roostbooks.com](http://roostbooks.com)).*



**9** Go on a scavenger hunt! From the author of the popular *Wreck This Journal* comes *The Pocket Scavenger* (Perigee, \$15; [perigeebooks.com](http://perigeebooks.com)), a take-it-along book that encourages exploration and the creative process. Kids collect items on their hunt, then are instructed to morph the objects into something else, redirecting them from habitual ways of thinking while having some free-form fun—and making every user's version of the book unique.

Make macaroni necklaces,  
**10** and wear them proudly!



**GET DIRTY—** **13**  
very, very dirty!

**14** SIGN UP for your library's summer reading program.



**FLY A KITE.**

**16** Bring the little ones to a children's museum—they're a wonderful way to engage young imaginations during the summer months, plus they're a nice change of pace from all the running around that comes with the season. Discover where to go and what's on exhibit at [nymetroparents.com/museums](http://nymetroparents.com/museums).

**17**



**Learn how to Hula-Hoop.**

**18**



**Practice origami.** Taro's Origami Studio in Park Slope, Brooklyn, has a drop-in corner where caregivers and their wards 3 and older can settle in with a tablet computer loaded with Taro's own step-by-step app—just \$10 per person for a half hour and unlimited paper! (Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm; 95 7th Ave. between Union and President streets). Star Wars fans 9 and older should check out *Star Wars Origami* (Workman, \$16.95; [tarosorigami.com](http://tarosorigami.com)); the book has everything you need to create a galaxy of droids, weapons, and galactic characters, including 72 sheets of illustrated origami paper.

**19**

Have a family slumber party in the living room.



**11**

Take your children to a sensory-friendly movie screening—the lights stay up, the sound is turned down, and audience members are encouraged to get up, walk around, and make as much noise as they please—courtesy of Autism Society and AMC Loews Theaters. *Monsters University* (pictured), Pixar's prequel to *Monsters Inc.*, will screen on June 29. Find participating theaters near you at [nymetroparents.com/sff](http://nymetroparents.com/sff).



**20 Try tie-dye.** Everyone can get in on the act and transform boring white cotton into something a little funky, a little retro. If your own memory of how to twist and dip has faded along with your old tees, pick up a DIY kit from [groovyongrand.com](http://groovyongrand.com). Better yet, check out one of their camps or drop-in sessions in Croton-on-Hudson: Weeklong camp sessions cover fashion design for kids ages 8-16 (everyone walks away with a one-of-a-kind wardrobe) and drop-ins at the studio cover tie-dying as well as other graphic adornment.

**21 Get organized:** Take advantage of less frenzied days to get schedules straight before school begins. While many of us rely more and more on technology to run our lives, often it's good old-fashioned pen and paper that make the most sense—and for family schedules, it's the (color-coded, easily shared, reliable!) way to go. M by Staples Arc notebooks and accessories are customizable—we love the task pads (what parent isn't constantly making lists?!) and the clear zip pockets. Leather notebooks start at \$14.99; accessories range from \$1.99-\$39.99; [staples.com](http://staples.com).



**Make a family time capsule and bury it.** Leave yourself a clue (stash it in your jewelry box or in the back of a photo album) with a reminder of when you hope to dig it up.

**23**

**25 Make a duct tape wallet.**

Pinterest has no lack of duct tape crafting inspiration (argyle-style belts, sturdy beach bags, even flip flops), but for those of us who prefer step-by-step instruction, why not try this kit your first time out—there's enough patterned tape to make two wallets, so it's a great DIY project for you and your creative school-aged kid. (\$18; [uncommongoods.com](http://uncommongoods.com))



**26 COME UP WITH A SECRET HANDSHAKE** or a funny word that only members of your family are in on.

**27 Designate a family reading day.** Whether you've all gotten too much sun at the beach or a rainy day comes along, curl up on the porch, near a fan, or around the living room with a good book each. There's something to be said for being lost in your own story while those you love are lost right next to you.



**22**

Fly from the trees! The Adventure Park at the Discovery Museum, a new aerial adventure park in Fairfield County, CT, features 5 acres of climbing, swinging, and zip-lining for kids as young as 5. See how it works at [nymetroparents.com/trees](http://nymetroparents.com/trees).

**Make a summer playlist. 24**

Want a few suggestions? The uplifting Irish-folk sounding “We Just Wanna Have Fun” from the band Milkshake will get everyone stomping and clapping to the beat, while the group’s mellow, instrumental “Seabreeze” is the perfect way to wind down after a day at the beach. Brooklyn musician Nina Stone, a.k.a. Miss Nina, makes music emphatically for “kids first,” but we swear you’ll happily bop along to “My Hula Hoop” and “Ridin’ in My Car,” two truly summery songs. And we nominate NYC-based Joanie Leeds and the Nightlights’ “Are We There Yet” as your summer road trip anthem (“I Love New York,” also on the group’s *Bandwagon* album, is playlist-worthy, too). If you prefer your music live, all three of these acts will be performing locally this month—get the scoop at [nymetroparents.com/summer-music](http://nymetroparents.com/summer-music).



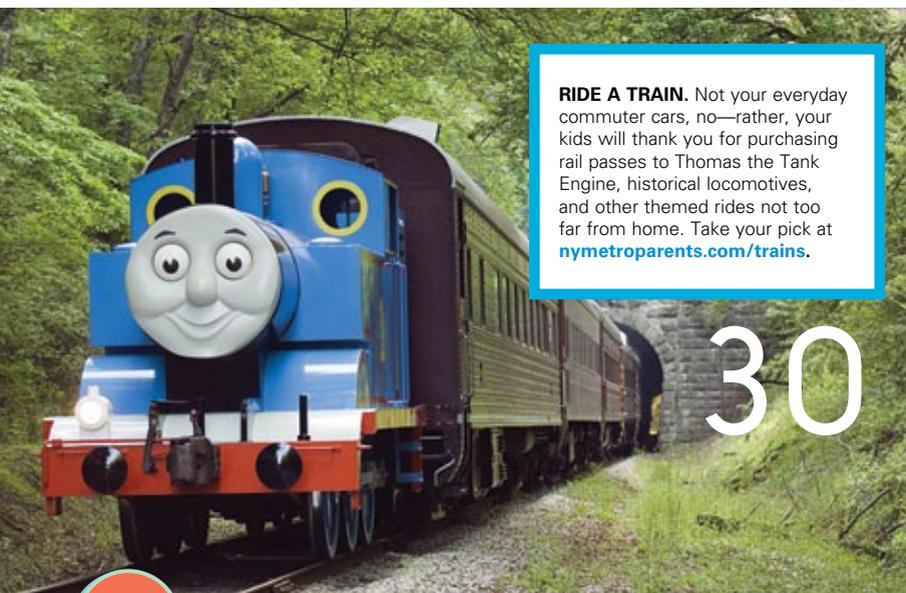
**28 Act like a tourist**, and save some dough. Through our exclusive partnerships in the Big Apple, we offer you and your family the chance to experience a variety of cool spots at a discount: Cruise the waters with Circle Line 42, explore aircrafts and space shuttles at the Intrepid, awe at millions of candy-coated chocolates at M&M World in Times Square, or bike through NYC’s iconic Central Park. Print your coupons and other offers at [nymetroparents.com/cityguide](http://nymetroparents.com/cityguide).

**29 PIZZA PARTY!** Make individual pizzas with healthy toppings (chopped peppers, spinach, pineapple) and see who can be most creative.



**Get as many kids together 31**

from the neighborhood as you can for an impromptu wiffle ball tournament—or just play a game with your family (no matter the age!) in the park.



**RIDE A TRAIN.** Not your everyday commuter cars, no—rather, your kids will thank you for purchasing rail passes to Thomas the Tank Engine, historical locomotives, and other themed rides not too far from home. Take your pick at [nymetroparents.com/trains](http://nymetroparents.com/trains).

**30**



# Day trip to any of these must-see destinations >>

By Stacey Zable

(all are less than two hours away!)



Top: Howe Caverns will debut its new H2OGO Ball June 18. Main photo and inset: Families can choose from four underground tours, all of which showcase the caverns' awesome natural formations (bonus: the temperature down there is a constant 52 degrees, even during the hottest days of summer).

## NEW YORK

### SCHOHARIE COUNTY

**32** Howe Caverns Adventure Park  
255 Discovery Drive, Cobleskill  
518-296-8900; [howecaverns.com](http://howecaverns.com)  
Hours: 9am-6pm daily through Oct. 31; 10am-3pm Friday-Monday Nov. 1 through March 31

**Traditional Tour:** A 90-minute walking tour with boat ride: \$23; \$19 children ages 12-15; \$12 children ages 5-11.

**Family Flashlight Tour:** A two-hour tour with flashlights and headlamps offered on Sunday evenings (for ages 5 and older): \$35; reservations required.

**Lantern Tour:** A two-hour tour with lanterns on Friday and Saturday evenings (for ages 16 and older): \$35; reservations required.

**Adventure Tour:** A two-hour spelunking tour (for ages 12 and older): \$108; reservations required.

Journey more than 150 feet below the Earth's surface, where you'll take a tour of an underground cavern six million years in the making. You'll see stalactites and stalagmites, limestone formations, and the underground Lake of Venus. Above ground, **Howe High Adventure** activities include a four-tower zip line, ropes course, rock wall, air jumper, and gem mine at the **Howe Caverns Mining Company**. The all-new H2OGO Ball gets visitors rolling down a hill in a 12-foot inflatable ball filled with five gallons of water. With a **café and motel on premises**, visitors can turn their day trip into a weekend getaway.

#### Nearby attractions:

**33** Continue the underground theme at nearby **Secret Caverns** ([secretcaverns.com](http://secretcaverns.com)), where you'll see a 100-foot underground waterfall among cool rock formations.

**34** Learn about Native culture and art at the **Iroquois Indian Museum** ([iroquoismuseum.org](http://iroquoismuseum.org)), where the museum building is shaped like a long-house and the outdoor amphitheater

hosts storytelling, talks, and various performing arts. The grounds also include a 45-acre nature park with various trails.

**35** Just down the road, the **Gobbler's Knob Family Fun Park** ([gobblersknob.us](http://gobblersknob.us)) features a miniature golf course, driving range, and nine-hole golf course, the Muscle Motors Speedway go-cart track, and a snack bar and ice cream parlor.

#### COOPERSTOWN

**36** **Baseball Hall of Fame**  
25 Main St., Cooperstown  
888-425-5633; [baseballhall.org](http://baseballhall.org)  
[thisiscooperstown.com](http://thisiscooperstown.com)

Hours: 9am-9pm daily Memorial Day weekend through Sept. 1; 9am-5pm daily after Sept. 1

Admission: \$19.50; \$12 seniors; \$7 children ages 7-12; free for children ages 6 and younger

At this mecca for fans of the great American pastime, relive the history of Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron, and women in baseball, and take in the new display of historic baseball cards. Kids can visit the Sandlot Kids' Clubhouse, an interactive educational area devoted to Little Leaguers who want to learn about the big league. There are also special events throughout the summer, including the Hall of Fame Induction Weekend (July 26-29; [baseballhall.org/hofweekend](http://baseballhall.org/hofweekend) for details).

Nearby attractions:

**37** Visit **Doubleday Field** to watch and play baseball where the sport was invented ([thisiscooperstown.com/attractions/doubleday-field](http://thisiscooperstown.com/attractions/doubleday-field)).

**38** Experience 19th-century rural and village life through demonstrations and interpretive exhibits at **The Farmers' Museum** ([farmersmuseum.org](http://farmersmuseum.org)).

**39** Just 3 miles outside Cooperstown is the **Fly Creek Cider Mill & Orchard** ([flycreekcidermill.com](http://flycreekcidermill.com)), where you can take a tour, enjoy lunch and daily tastings of more than 40 specialty foods, feed the ducks and geese on the pond, and relax while the kids play at Tractorland.

**40** Take the 8-mile drive out of town to **Glimmerglass State Park** ([nysparks.com/parks/28](http://nysparks.com/parks/28)), where you'll find beaches, picnic areas, camping sites, hiking and nature trails, and the historic **Hyde Hall Mansion** ([hydehall.org](http://hydehall.org)).

#### NEW JERSEY

**41** **Cape May Point State Park**  
Cape May; [www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/capemay.html](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/capemay.html)  
The town of Cape May is a National Historic Landmark that features beautiful Victorian architecture (more than 600 buildings), plus beaches, a **lighthouse** (\$7; \$3 for children ages 3-12; free for children younger than 3), whale watching, and a **ferry to Lewes, DE** ([capemaylewesferry.com](http://capemaylewesferry.com)). Families can enjoy nature programs, surf fishing, nature and hiking trails, picnicking, beach scavenger hunts, and a **World War II bunker**. While you're in town, stop by the **Cape May Bird Observatory** ([njaudubon.org](http://njaudubon.org)) for bird walks and workshops and get FREE admission to the **Cape May County Zoo** ([capemaycountyzoo.org](http://capemaycountyzoo.org)), which features more than 550 animals, playgrounds, train rides, and carousel rides.

#### MASSACHUSETTS SPRINGFIELD

**42** **Basketball Hall of Fame**  
1000 Hall of Fame Ave. (GPS: 1000 Columbus Ave.), Springfield  
877-446-4752; [hoophall.com](http://hoophall.com)  
Hours: 10am-5pm daily in summer  
Admission: \$19; \$15 seniors; \$14 children ages 5-15; free for children younger than 5

Immerse yourself in the exhilarating history of one of the world's most popular sports and participate in interactive exhibits. The three-level museum includes displays ranging from the original handwritten rules of play to a pair of Michael Jordan's shoes. From July 1 through Aug. 31, the Hall of Fame will host daily appearances, autograph signings, trick dribblers and jugglers, mascot days, giveaway days, and more; see [hoophall.com/60-days-of-summer](http://hoophall.com/60-days-of-summer) for an updated schedule.

Nearby attractions:

**43** While you're in Springfield, the birthplace of Theodor Seuss Geisel, visit some of the late author's beloved characters in the **Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden** ([catinthehat.org/memorial.htm](http://catinthehat.org/memorial.htm)).

**44** The **Springfield Museums** ([springfieldmuseums.org](http://springfieldmuseums.org)) let you pay one admission price to visit five cool museums: Michele & Donald D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts, George Walter Vincent Smith

Art Museum, Springfield Science Museum, Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, and Museum of Springfield History.

**45** Ride the coasters or kiddie rides, and cool off in the Hurricane Harbor water park at **Six Flags New England** ([sixflags.com/newengland](http://sixflags.com/newengland)).

#### RHODE ISLAND

**46** **Block Island**  
800-383-2474; [blockislandinfo.com](http://blockislandinfo.com)  
Nature Conservancy: 401-466-2129  
With 17 miles of spectacular beaches, Block Island offers limitless possibilities for families looking for some outdoor fun. Rent a bike or moped, cast a line in the Old Harbor, charter a sailboat, or simply play in the sand and surf. The Nature Conservancy offers programs for kids, including scavenger hunts and "muck rucks." Residents pride themselves on being free from big commercial chains, so you won't find any McDonald's on the island. But its mom-and-pop ice cream shops, historic lighthouses, magnificent bluffs, and winding trails offer a truly relaxing experience. The 75-minute ferry from New London, CT ([blockislandferry.com](http://blockislandferry.com)), offers daily service through August and weekend service in September.

#### PENNSYLVANIA BUCKS COUNTY

**47** **Sesame Place**  
100 Sesame Road, Langhorne  
866-464-3566; [sesameplace.com](http://sesameplace.com)  
Hours: 10am-8pm daily through June 21; 10am-9pm June 21-Aug. 4  
Admission: \$59.99; \$54.99 seniors; free for children younger than 2  
Heading to this Delaware Valley attraction is a rite of passage for parents of toddlers, who bask in the glow of Abby Cadabby's fairy spells and the warmth of Elmo's hugs. Guests dance and sing along with some of the world's best-loved characters in the daily Neighborhood Street Party parade, cool off—and scream like banshees—in the expansive water play area, and are captivated during the changing rotation of shows. The lineup of PBS Kids Sprout characters—including Caillou, Max & Ruby, and Angelina Ballerina—also roam the park and are featured in special engagement shows throughout the summer (check website for dates). A Father's Day celebration and July Fourth barbecue and fireworks are popular (also: crowded) days to visit. Starting this year, Sesame

Place offers box lunches that can be purchased online and picked up at Elmo's Lunch Box Stop; and it has added more allergen-friendly foods to the menu. The ever-popular character dining options (extra fees apply, but your photo-op moments will increase exponentially along with your child's smiles) have expanded to include Rosita's Cinco de Mayo party and Cookie Monster's Country Breakfast.  
**Nearby Attractions:**

**48** Kids can design and build their own race car, go on a simulated hot air balloon ride, and discover lots of local history in the interactive exhibits at **The Bucks County Children's Museum** ([buckskids.org](http://buckskids.org)).

**49** Stock up on tokens and let the kids play in the **Giggleberry Fair** arcade before setting them loose in the area's largest indoor obstacle course, **Giggleberry Mountain**—it's three stories of enclosed slides, mazes, and an exploding "berry fountain" ([peddlersvillage.com/kids](http://peddlersvillage.com/kids)).

**50** Wander the winding brick pathways at historic **Peddler's Village**, where seasonal festivals and shopping abound ([peddlersvillage.com](http://peddlersvillage.com)).

**51** Hop aboard an authentic steam locomotive or historic diesel that traverses the rolling hills and valleys of Bucks County: the **New Hope & Ivyland Railroad** is a 45-minute ride including narration about the area's history ([newhoperrailroad.com](http://newhoperrailroad.com)).

#### LANCASTER COUNTY

**52** **Pennsylvania Dutch Country**  
800-723-8824; [padutchcountry.com](http://padutchcountry.com)  
This area, also known as Amish country, is home to several festivals and events over the summer, including the Day Out With Thomas at Strasburg Rail Road ([strasburgrailroad.com/day-out-with-thomas.php](http://strasburgrailroad.com/day-out-with-thomas.php)) and the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire ([parenfaire.com](http://parenfaire.com)).

**Attractions include:**

- Meet some farm animals at the Amish Farm & House ([amishfarmandhouse.com](http://amishfarmandhouse.com)).
- Take a buggy or wagon ride through the countryside with Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides ([amishbuggyrides.com](http://amishbuggyrides.com)).
- Cherry Crest Adventure Farm ([cherrycrestfarm.com](http://cherrycrestfarm.com)) is a working farm where you can explore a corn maze, take a wagon ride, race around the pedal kart tracks, meet and feed farm animals, learn about agriculture, and grab a homemade snack.

## DAY TRIPS

continued from previous page

Hop aboard the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat for a scenic journey through the Connecticut River Valley. Located in Middlesex County, CT, it's the only steam train and riverboat connection in the country.



Jody Dole

- Enjoy more than 30 family and kiddie rides, a water park, a miniature golf course, and kid-friendly shows at Dutch Wonderland Amusement Park ([dutchwonderland.com](http://dutchwonderland.com)).
- Tots will love the interactive exhibits at the Hands-on House Children's Museum ([handsonhouse.org](http://handsonhouse.org)).
- Catch a minor league baseball game at Clipper Magazine Stadium, home of the Lancaster Barnstormers ([lancasterbarnstormers.com](http://lancasterbarnstormers.com)).
- Visit the many train-themed attractions, including the National Toy Train Museum ([nttmuseum.org](http://nttmuseum.org)), Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania ([rrmuseumpa.org](http://rrmuseumpa.org)), and Strasburg Rail Road ([strasburgrailroad.com](http://strasburgrailroad.com)).
- Learn how ice cream is made and brainstorm new flavors, climb aboard a milk truck, milk a mechanical cow, and more at Turkey Hill Experience ([turkeyhillexperience.com](http://turkeyhillexperience.com)).

### LEHIGH VALLEY

**53 Crayola Experience**  
30 Centre Square, Easton  
610-515-8000; [crayolaexperience.com](http://crayolaexperience.com)  
Hours: 9:30am-5pm Monday-Saturday; 11am-5pm Sunday  
Admission: \$15.99; free for children ages 2 and younger  
Discover the magic of color with 18 all-new attractions at the world's only Crayola Experience. Kids can explore

four floors of family fun to create custom crayons and markers, bring their drawings to life on the big screen, star in their own coloring pages, paint with melted wax, or "doodle in the dark" on an interactive floor. Grab a colorful concoction from Café Crayola and take home one-of-a-kind souvenirs from the official Crayola Store.

#### Nearby attractions:

**54** Ride the coasters, visit a dinosaur park, and get wet in the water park at **Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom** ([dorneypark.com](http://dorneypark.com)).

**55** Take a tour of ancient underground caverns, then come back to the surface to picnic, hike the nature trails, and shop for gem stones at **Lost River Caverns** ([lostcave.com](http://lostcave.com)).

**56** Build and learn how to steer a canal boat inside the **National Canal Museum** ([canals.org](http://canals.org)), then head outside to ride a mule-drawn canal boat.

### PHILADELPHIA

**57 Please Touch Museum**  
Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park  
4231 Avenue of the Republic  
215-581-3181  
[pleasetouchmuseum.org](http://pleasetouchmuseum.org)  
Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Saturday;

11am-5pm Sunday  
Admission: \$16; \$8 parking  
Explore two floors of interactive exhibit zones including Rainforest Rhythm, Flight Fantasy, River Adventures, and the Playhouse Theater. The museum encourages touching the exhibits as a means of learning. Most days at the museum during the summer include story time, sing-alongs, and theatrical experiences designed with tiny tots in mind.

#### Nearby attractions:

**58** Visit **The Betsy Ross House** ([betsyrosshouse.org](http://betsyrosshouse.org)) to experience colonial Philadelphia and "meet" the woman who sewed the first American flag.

**59** **The Franklin Institute** ([fi.edu](http://fi.edu)) hosts daily exhibits, shows, and demonstrations in the spirit of Benjamin Franklin's passion for science and technology.

**60** Stop by the **Philadelphia Zoo** ([philadelphiazoo.org](http://philadelphiazoo.org)) to meet more than 1,300 animals, ride the carousel or PZ Express train, take a pony or camel ride, and steer a swan boat.

**61** Take a tour of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell at **Independence National Historic Park** ([nps.gov/inde](http://nps.gov/inde)).

## CONNECTICUT

### HARTFORD COUNTY

**62 Dinosaur State Park**  
400 West St., Rocky Hill  
860-529-8423; [dinosaurstatepark.org](http://dinosaurstatepark.org)  
Hours: Park grounds: 9am-4:30pm daily; exhibit center: 9am-4:30pm Tuesday-Sunday  
Admission (for exhibit center): \$6; \$2 ages 6-12; free for ages 5 and younger  
Pack your sunscreen for a day of outdoor adventure. For a small fee, visitors can mine for gems and fossils or make their own cast of a dinosaur footprint. A newly renovated Discovery Room includes a Connecticut Geologic Treasures exhibit, Life Through Time Fossil exhibit, and more.

#### Nearby attractions:

**63** Visit **The New Children's Museum** ([thechildrensmuseumct.org](http://thechildrensmuseumct.org)) for hands-on science and nature exhibits, a wildlife sanctuary, movie screenings, and planetarium shows.

**64** Soar over to the **New England Air Museum** ([neam.org](http://neam.org)) to learn about the science and history of flight,

take a cockpit tour of a vintage aircraft, virtually fly an aircraft, and view more than 70 flying machines.

**65** See one of the largest collections of antique carousel pieces at **The New England Carousel Museum** ([thecarouselmuseum.org](http://thecarouselmuseum.org)), and take a spin on the Bushnell Park Carousel ([bushnellpark.org](http://bushnellpark.org)).

### MIDDLESEX COUNTY

**66 Essex Steam Train & Riverboat**  
1 Railroad Ave., Essex  
860-767-0103; [essexsteamtrain.com](http://essexsteamtrain.com)  
Hours: Daily through Oct. 27  
Cost: \$26; \$17 children ages 2-11; free for children younger than 2  
The 2½-hour journey begins at the historic 1892 Essex Station. From there, you'll take a 12-mile, narrated round-trip journey into the Connecticut River Valley aboard a steam locomotive pulling vintage coaches through the quaint New England towns of Deep River and Chester. At Deep River Landing, you are escorted onto the Becky Thatcher riverboat for a 1-hour cruise on the river. After the cruise, passengers re-board the steam train for the return trip to Essex Station.

#### Nearby attractions:

**67** Visit a 24-room mansion that looks like a medieval castle in **Gillette Castle State Park** ([ctrivervalley.com](http://ctrivervalley.com)), where you can also hike the nature trails and have a picnic.

**68** Take a hike to see the waterfalls in **Wadsworth Falls State Park** ([www.ct.gov/deep/wadsworthfalls](http://www.ct.gov/deep/wadsworthfalls)) and go picnicking, swimming, and fishing.

### NEW LONDON COUNTY

**69 Mystic Seaport**  
75 Greenmanville Ave., Mystic  
888-973-2767; [mysticseaport.org](http://mysticseaport.org)  
Hours: 9am-5pm daily  
Admission: \$24; \$22 seniors and college students; \$15 children ages 6-17; free for children 5 and younger (tickets are good for two days within a week)  
Travel back in time to the heyday of American sailing at this maritime museum. Explore the recreated 19th-century village and swap seafaring stories with historical role-players. Cruise the picturesque Mystic River on the steamboat Sabino or rent a boat and sail yourself. Check the website for special events this summer.

# 70

Take a Fly Wrapz band (\$5.99; [geospaceplay.com](http://geospaceplay.com)) out to the park and throw it like a boomerang—it can glide up to 60 feet!—then snap it onto your wrist, where it's disguised as a funky wristband (six designs available).



**71 Make seed grenades** (a.k.a. seed balls, bolitas de arcillas, tsuchi-dango, or saatbomben). In the 1970s, determined to make inhospitable soil bloom, “guerilla gardening” pioneer Liz Christy began throwing wildflower seed grenades into fenced-off vacant lots around her New York neighborhood. If you’re too impatient to tend a garden, or you don’t have a patch of dirt to call your own, this springtime experiment provides a perfect excuse to get in on the greening act. Find a step-by-step recipe for making seed grenades out of clay, eggshells, or papier mache at [nymetroparents.com/seed-grenades](http://nymetroparents.com/seed-grenades), or buy the amazing book that provided us with the idea, *Unbored: The Essential Guide to Serious Fun* (Bloomsbury; \$25).



# 72

**TAKE UP SURFING!** Every member of your family, even the most dedicated couch potato, can pick up a board and catch a wave. Group and private lessons are offered to swimmers of all ages and abilities in Long Beach and Rockaway Beach by Skudin Surf, where the Skudin family has been teaching the craft for more than 30 years. Surfing promotes cardiovascular fitness, develops core and leg muscles, and strengthens shoulders and back—and it provides lots of joy, as Skudin Surf owners and professional big wave surfers Cliff and Will Skudin can attest. Their surfing school has the highest ratio of instructors to students in the area; find more info at [skudinsurf.com](http://skudinsurf.com).

Rich Bolton

**73 Make sure you’re up to speed on upcoming family events:** Subscribe to NYMetroParents weekly family fun newsletter at [nymetroparents.com/register](http://nymetroparents.com/register).

**125** Summer Ideas!

NYMetroParents

Join  
**NYMetroParents**



Get advance notice on activities, participate in group discussions and receive special notices.

[www.facebook.com/nymetroparents](http://www.facebook.com/nymetroparents)

# 74



**Make your own rainbows**—or spaceships, or flower gardens, or whatever you dream of—with these new ultra-vibrant chalks, for the first time featuring 48 classic Crayola colors (so your kids can draw “sepia”-toned trees and “granny smith apple”-colored turtles!). The squared-off edges prevent chalk from rolling away, too (ages 4 and older; \$4.99; [crayola.com](http://crayola.com)).



# 75

Have a rummage sale.

**Send your little ones on an outdoor mission** with these cool walkie talkies from Backyard Safari (\$39.99; available in Walmart stores). Simple to use, they have a convenient belt clip, too. The built-in antenna allows communication at distances of up to 2 miles (Roger that!).



# 76



**78 Set up a lemonade stand.** Enterprising tots will love this cardboard version from Chasing Fireflies (\$78; [chasing-fireflies.com](http://chasing-fireflies.com)), which they can color in or decorate with personalized decals (sold separately). Whether they go the traditional route and sell lemonade or decide to peddle a different product, the stand offers kids opportunities for creative play as they gain essential business experience.

**77 Support local mompreneurs:** Go to [venturemom.com/shop](http://venturemom.com/shop)—a site created by Darien, CT resident Holly Hurd—to browse and buy unique mom-invented products such as Weston, CT-based Diaper Bag Dailies; a line of stylish, un-bunchable shirts from a pair of moms in Rye and Stamford, CT; and personalized gifts from a Bedford mom also known as Mrs. Monogram.

**Zoom over to the zoo.** Our where-to guide has hours, family programs, and all you need to make a day with the animals special. Go to [nymetroparents.com/zoos](http://nymetroparents.com/zoos).

# 79

**Build a sandcastle.**

# 80

Find expert sand sculpting tips at [nymetroparents.com/sand](http://nymetroparents.com/sand).

**81 Kick off summer with the Great American Backyard Campout on June 22.** Sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, this national event encourages one and all to get outside and connect with the natural world. Campout locations include parks and nature centers throughout the New York metro area as well as less traditional venues such as the woods behind the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in the Bronx, the New York Hall of Science in Queens, and the Coney Island Beach and Boardwalk in Brooklyn. For more information, go to [nymetroparents.com/gabcampout](http://nymetroparents.com/gabcampout).



**83 Learn how to juggle.** Novice and master jugglers alike will delight in eeBoo's ([eeboo.com](http://eeboo.com)) soft and perfectly weighted juggling balls.

Each festive set of three balls includes an instructional poster guiding young jugglers as they aspire to new heights (ages 7 and older; \$18.99; available at A.I. Friedman, 495 Boston Post Road, Port Chester and G. Willikers, 29 Katonah Ave., Katonah).

**82 Go screen-free for a week.** This is an experiment worth trying, even though it may be challenging (we're talking no browsing your smartphones during meals, people!).



**Head to the ballpark**—a minor league game offers a more family-friendly experience and the chance to see future big leaguers up close. Before you go, check out Exploratorium's Science of Baseball website for lots of cool stuff. Did you know, for example, that it's best to learn how to throw a curveball using a styrofoam ball, since it's easier to observe its trajectory? Find a how-to on that, plus discover the physics of a knuckleball, how temperature changes a ball's bounce, and more math-related sports surprises at [exploratorium.edu/baseball](http://exploratorium.edu/baseball). Pick your ballpark in our complete where-to guide, which includes home team info as well as the scoop on food and fan engagement: [nymetroparents.com/ballparks](http://nymetroparents.com/ballparks).

# 84



Blow bubbles.



Lie back  
and stare at  
the clouds.

86

**87** Pick a place you go often & do a family photo shoot there.

Years later you'll appreciate the memories that are attached to the location. Let the kids strap on the camera for a while to get parents in frame, too (ever notice how moms, especially, aren't always in the pictures?!).

Make a home movie, costumes and all. **88**

**89** Volunteer with your kids.

Check out our web guide together to find an organization close by that would benefit from your help: [nymetroparents.com/volunteer](http://nymetroparents.com/volunteer).

Learn some magic tricks. Perform them for friends and family. **90**

HAVE A WATER FIGHT! **92**



Eat lots of watermelon to boost your "health esteem." This lycopene leader among fresh produce has a place at every barbecue, but there are plenty more delicious ways to incorporate it into your summer fare. Find recipes, including easy ones for shrimp and watermelon sate and watermelon "donuts," at [nymetroparents.com/watermelon](http://nymetroparents.com/watermelon).

91

**93** Go to camp.

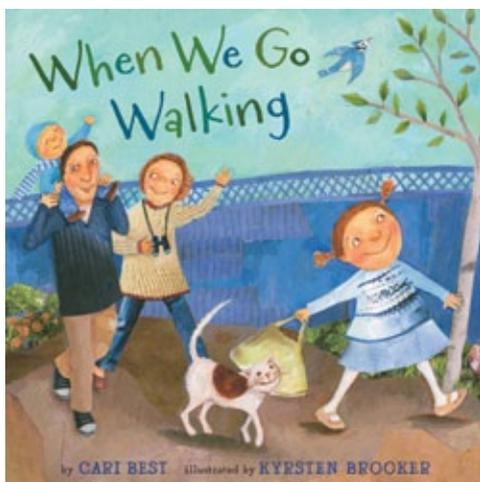
Wait, you haven't signed up yet? Many camps are still taking registration for late summer sessions, so browse our comprehensive directory at [nymetroparents.com/camp](http://nymetroparents.com/camp). Prefer a family camp adventure? Get inspired by one Queens clan who took to the woods for just that: [nymetroparents.com/familycamp](http://nymetroparents.com/familycamp).

**94** Encourage your camp veteran to become a CIT or camp counselor.

We spoke to a long-time camp director for advice on encouraging your "graduating" campers: [nymetroparents.com/cit](http://nymetroparents.com/cit).

**95** TAKE SWIMMING LESSONS. Get sage advice from a former Coast Guard helicopter rescue swimmer (who's also a dad) on getting tykes in the water safely without instilling fear at [nymetroparents.com/swim](http://nymetroparents.com/swim).

**96** HEAD TO A STREET FAIR. Check out our guide to healthy eating in the summer at [nymetroparents.com/summer-eating](http://nymetroparents.com/summer-eating) for tips that make tackling temptation at festivals and barbecues a breeze.



98

**Take family walks after dinner.** The picture book *When We Go Walking* by NYC native and Weston, CT resident Cari Best is "a tempting invitation to turn any walk into an equally fruitful ramble," according to Kirkus Reviews. We couldn't resist this tale of a family's exuberant walking adventures, no matter the weather, and you shouldn't either (ages 6 and older; Amazon Children's Publishing; \$17.99; [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)).

**97** START MUSIC LESSONS.

(Piano is said to be an excellent first instrument.)

99

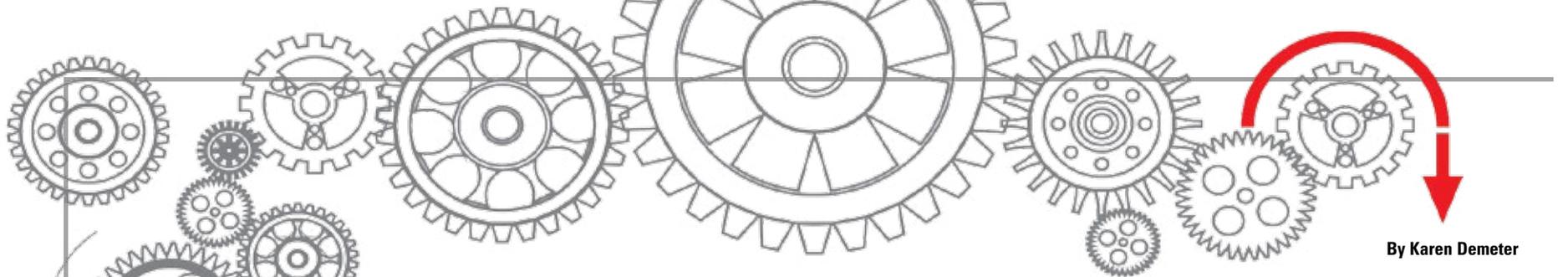
**GO MINI-GOLFING.** We've got a guide to where you can putt your way to victory throughout the region, so whether you're repeat players at the little course near your home or you're visiting friends at the beach, you'll find one nearby: [nymetroparents.com/minigolf](http://nymetroparents.com/minigolf).

Take a hike.

100

**101**  
Catch fireflies  
in a jar.





By Karen Demeter

## »» Travel back in time...

The New York metro area boasts a wealth of historic homes, farms, and villages, and many offer family-friendly tours and special events throughout the summer—the perfect way to help your kids beat “summer brain drain” without even picking up a book. Here, we’ve put together a map to historic places near you, from the oldest to the not-quite-so-old. Whether it’s just down the road or far enough to warrant a weekend trip, each of these locations offers an interesting look into how people lived way back when.



On Thursdays in July and August, kids are invited to Washington Irving’s Sunnyside to learn what life was like in the 19th century by exploring the home, playing with period toys and games, listening to stories, and participating in scavenger hunts.

Steve White for S.E. Advance

### 102 Historic Richmond Town

441 Clarke Ave., Staten Island  
718-351-1617

[historicrichmondtown.org](http://historicrichmondtown.org)

Hours: 1-5pm Wednesday-Sunday

**Guided Tours:** 2:30pm Wednesday-Friday;  
2pm and 3:30pm Saturday-Sunday

Admission: \$8; \$6 seniors and students ages 12-17; \$5 children ages 4-11; free for children younger than 4

Richmond Town was settled in the late 16th and early 17th centuries as a crossroads settlement among the scattered farms of Staten Island. Now a living history village, the site covers 50 acres and features more than 30 historic structures, including homes and com-

mercial and civic buildings, as well as a historical museum. All buildings are original and more than half of them remain in the same spot they were built. (One home is 350 years old!) At **Decker Farm**, the oldest continually operating farm in New York, take a self-guided tour and enjoy the organic, seasonal produce sold at the farm stand.

**Special Event:** Aug. 31 and Sept. 1-2:  
Richmond County Fair

### 103 Queens County Farm Museum

73-50 Little Neck Parkway, Floral Park  
718-347-3276; [queensfarm.org](http://queensfarm.org)

**Farmhouse tours:** 11am-4pm Saturday-Sunday, year-round

**Outdoor visiting:** 10am-5pm daily, year-round  
Admission: FREE

The museum occupies the largest remaining tract of undisturbed farmland in the city (47 acres) and is the longest continuously farmed site in New York state. The site includes historic farm buildings, livestock, farm vehicles, and an orchard and herb garden.

**Special Events:**

- April-October: Hayrides offered during visiting hours (\$2)
- July 26-28: 35th annual Thunderbird American Indian Mid-Summer Pow Wow: More than 40 Indian nations are represented at this cultural festival and dance competition. Friday, 7-10pm; Saturday 12-5pm and 7-10pm; Sunday 12-5pm. \$10; \$5 children ages 12 and younger.

• September 21-22: 31st annual Queens County Fair: Enjoy an old-fashioned traditional county fair with blue-ribbon competitions, a corn maze, corn-husking and pie-eating contests, lumberjack shows, pig-racing, hayrides, and carnival rides. 11am-6pm. \$8; \$4 children 12 and younger (maze, carnival games, and rides cost extra).

## 104 Lefferts Historic House

Prospect Park, Brooklyn  
[prospectpark.org](http://prospectpark.org)  
 Hours: April-June: 12-5pm Saturday-Sunday. July-August: 12-6pm Thursday-Sunday. September: 12-5pm, Thursday-Sunday.  
 Admission: \$3 suggested donation; free for children ages 16 and younger  
 This home is located in the park's Children's Corner, near the carousel and the Prospect Park Zoo. Families learn about life in colonial times through the homestead's working gardens, historic artifacts and documents, period rooms, and exhibits. Visitors can try using traditional tools, churn butter, make candles, and play with old-fashioned toys. At press time, the site's summer calendar was not yet finalized; check the website for upcoming special events.

## 105 Bush Holley House

39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT  
 203-869-6899; [hstg.org](http://hstg.org)  
 Hours: 12-4pm Wednesday-Sunday; **docent-led tours** at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm.  
 Admission: \$10; \$8 students; free for children younger than 7  
 Prosperous merchants built this home in 1730; it was later used as a boarding house and gathering place for prominent American artists and arbiters. A National Historic Landmark, it is one of 18 museums participating in the Connecticut art trail.  
**Special Event:** June 9: Make a Memory Jar: The exhibition From Italy to America is filled with family memories and treasures. Share your family memories by constructing representations of them out of found materials and preserving them in mason jars. All craft materials will be supplied, but you are welcome to bring additional personal items (copies of photos, trinkets, clippings, ribbons) to contribute to your project. Drop in

any time from 12:30pm to 3:30pm. \$5. Register at [greenwichhistory.org](http://greenwichhistory.org).

## 106 Philipsburg Manor

381 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow  
 914-631-3992; [hudsonvalley.org](http://hudsonvalley.org)  
 Hours: May 4-Nov. 11: Wednesday-Sunday and holidays, admission by timed tours only: 10:30am, 12pm, 1:30pm, and 3pm.  
 Admission: \$12; \$6 children ages 3-17; free for children younger than 3  
 Take a guided tour of the 300-year-old manor house, barn, and gristmill to experience what life was like for Dutch farmers living in the 18th century. Visitors learn how to thresh wheat, see how the rushing waters of the nearby river worked the mill, and learn about Northern slaves who worked the farm during this period.

### Special Events:

- June 21-22: A Night on Fire: A fully choreographed, live display of fine art stunts featuring four flame-wielding, fire-eating performers who juggle, dance, spin, and sword fight. 8:15pm and 10pm. \$20; \$15 children. Reservations required.
- July 4-8: Pirates of the Hudson: The Siege of Sleepy Hollow: Pirates wash up on the shores of Philipsburg Manor and roam the grounds while kids roam the grounds on a treasure hunt, explore a pirate shipwreck, and learn to speak and act like a pirate. Timed entries between 2pm and 6pm. \$16; \$12 for children. Advance ticket purchase required.

## 107 The 1750 Ogden House & Gardens

1520 Bronson Road, Fairfield, CT  
 203-259-1598; [fairfieldhistory.org](http://fairfieldhistory.org)  
**Guided tours:** June 2-Sept. 29, Sundays 1-4pm; \$3  
 This mid-18th-century farmhouse provides a glimpse into the life of a middle-class colonial family. David Ogden built the house in 1750, and various members of the Ogden family lived there for the next 125 years. The Fairfield Museum and History Center, which operates the Ogden House, is located at 370 Beach Road (about a 10-minute drive).  
**Special Event:** June 8: Connecticut Open House Day: During this state-wide celebration, visit the Ogden House for docent-led tours and explore antique furniture, toys,

ceramic pieces, and textiles handed down by generations of families in Fairfield County. Take a stroll through the kitchen garden and view herbs and plants that were used in colonial times. 12-4pm. FREE.

## 108 Old Bethpage Village Restoration

1303 Round Swamp Road  
 Old Bethpage  
 516-572-8400; [nassaucountyny.gov](http://nassaucountyny.gov)  
 Hours: 10am-4pm Wednesday-Saturday; 11am-5pm Sunday  
 Admission: \$10; \$7 children ages 5-12; free for children younger than 5  
 This 209-acre recreated village allows visitors to experience a typical, rural Long Island farm village complete with homes, farms, and businesses. The site hosts old-time "base-ball" tournaments throughout the year.

### Special Events:

- (Note: Some details on these events were not available at press time; call or check the website for updates.)
- June 23: Huntington Militia Encampment: Militia camp life will be demonstrated. Families can watch crafts people work throughout the day, view muster drills, and learn how to march, drill, and fire a "musket." A Revolutionary War-period cannon will be fired several times during the day.
  - July 4: Independence Day Celebration: Celebrate the Fourth of July à la the Civil War-era, with live music, children's games, musket firings, and a patriotic parade.
  - Aug. 31-Sept. 1: Old Time Music Weekend: Popular music of the Civil War period is performed, while visitors learn traditional 1800s contra dancing and listen to the sounds of a brass military band.
  - Sept. 20-22 and 27-29: Long Island Fair: New York state's longest-running county fair features prize-winning vegetables and flowers, crafts, farm animals, brass band concerts, traditional music, wagon rides, pony rides, and more.

## 109 Fort Montgomery State Historic Site

690 U.S. 9W, Fort Montgomery  
 845-446-2134  
[palisadesparksconservancy.org/historic/18](http://palisadesparksconservancy.org/historic/18)  
 Hours: Mid-April through Oct. 31: 9am-5pm Wednesday-Sunday

1697



The Queens County Farm Museum is a reminder that New York City was once sprawling farmland.

1700



Lend a hand in the gardens at Lefferts Historic House to learn what life was like for New Yorkers in the 18th century.

1730



Take a docent-led tour of the Bush Holley House, a National Historic Landmark.

1750



Bryan Haefele

At Philipsburg Manor, you'll meet costumed interpreters, view artifacts and touchable reproductions, and listen to dramatic tales of slavery and resistance in the colonial North.



Ogden family documents were carefully examined to furnish The 1750 Ogden House appropriately with objects from the Fairfield Museum and History Center's collections.



Summer programs at Old Westbury Gardens allow kids to enjoy the great outdoors.

Admission: FREE; \$2 per person for group tours

This scenic spot overlooking the Hudson River was the site of a revolutionary battle fought on Oct. 6, 1777. American Patriots, outnumbered 3-to-1, lost the battle to the British. Visitors learn more about this military post at the site's museum, which displays artifacts, weapons, and large-scale models of the fort and the attack as well as a 15-minute movie recreating the battle.

**Special Events:**

- June 1: Military Arts Day: View demonstrations of military engineering, artillery, and music. 10am-4pm.
- June 8: Crown Forces Day: See the fort under the control of the British and Loyalist troops. 10am-4pm.
- July 4: Independence Day Cannon Firing: Celebrate the Fourth of July with a "bang" as the fort fires its artillery, including the 32-pound cannon.
- Saturdays and Sundays in July and August: Musket demonstrations at 12pm and 3pm; artillery demonstration at 1pm; music demonstration at 3:30pm.

**110 Dyckman Farmhouse**  
4881 Broadway  
(at 204th Street), Inwood  
212-304-9422

[dyckmanfarmhouse.org](http://dyckmanfarmhouse.org)

Hours: 11am-5pm Friday-Sunday  
Admission: \$1; free for children younger than 10; free admission to the garden

In the children's book *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton, a home in the country watches over time as a city is built around and above her. The little pink farmhouse is eventually picked up and moved out into the country again. The Dyckman Farmhouse also witnessed a transition from farmland to city but amazingly survived the wrecking ball, becoming a museum in 1916. Visitors can now take a **self-guided tour** of this Dutch Colonial-style farmhouse and learn who lived there and how it survived when others houses of its time did not. **Guided tours** for groups of 10 or more are available by appointment only. The schedule of summer events was not available at press time; call or check the website for updates.

**111 Van Cortlandt Manor**  
525 S. Riverside, Croton-on-Hudson  
914-631-8200 (914-271-8981 on weekends); [hudsonvalley.org](http://hudsonvalley.org)  
**Guided tours:** July 6-Aug. 25: Saturday-Sunday. Admission by timed tours only: 10:30am, 12pm, 1:30pm, 3pm. Schools and groups by reservation.  
Admission: \$12; \$6 children ages 3-17; free for children younger than 3

Visit the home of a prominent New York family that settled here after the American Revolution. In addition to seeing period furnishings, you can watch costumed guides demonstrate old-fashioned trades such as blacksmithing, bricking, open-hearth cooking, spinning, weaving, and other crafts of the period. Visit the Ferry House, built before 1750, to see what a rural tavern was like for travelers during the late 18th to early 19th centuries. The tour also addresses social issues such as religion and slave emancipation.

**Special Event:** June 22-23: **Animals & Acrobats:** This annual event captures the fun of an early American traveling circus. Performers include the fire-juggling acrobats of A Different Spin, the conservation group Two by Two Zoo, and birds of prey demonstrations from Flight of the Raptor, plus tightrope walkers, mimes, and more. 10am-5pm. \$16; \$14 seniors; \$12 children ages 3-17; free for children younger than 3.

**112 Boscobel House & Gardens**

1601 New York 9D, Garrison  
845-265-3638; [boscobel.org](http://boscobel.org)  
Hours: April 1-Oct. 31: 9:30am-5pm daily, except Tuesday; Nov. 1-Dec. 31: 9:30am-4pm daily, except Tuesday. **Guided tours** offered 9am-2:30pm.  
Admission: \$17; \$8 children ages 6-14; free for children younger than 6; purchase tickets online to get one child's ticket (ages 6-14) free with the purchase of two adult tickets. This Federal-style home with scenic views of the Hudson River was conceived by States Morris Dyckman, a Loyalist who made his fortune working for British quartermasters during the Revolutionary War. The home was completed by his wife Elizabeth after Dyckman died in 1806. Boscobel was originally built 15 miles away in Montrose but, to avoid demolition, was taken apart and painstakingly put back together in its present location.  
**Special Events:**  
• June 8: Snapping Turtle Walk: Enjoy an up-close snapping turtle demonstration by experts at Constitution Marsh Audubon Center & Sanctuary, then search the grounds for egg-laying females.

7:30-9am. \$12; free for children 6 and younger.

• June 11-Sept. 1: Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival: Boscobel is the setting for the festival's summer season, which this year includes performances of *King Lear*, *The Three Musketeers*, and *All's Well That Ends Well*. Visit [hvshakespeare.org](http://hvshakespeare.org) for more information.

• Sept. 8: 13th annual Big Band Concert & Sunset Picnic: Bring a picnic and enjoy a 20-piece big band orchestra. Students and owners from the Fred Astaire Dance Studio provide swing dance demonstrations. 6-8pm. \$16; free for children younger than 11.

**113 Walt Whitman Birthplace**

246 Old Walt Whitman Road  
West Hills  
631-427-5240; [waltwhitman.org](http://waltwhitman.org)  
Hours: Winter through June 15: 1-4pm Wednesday-Friday; 11am-4pm Saturday-Sunday. June 15-Labor Day: 11am-4pm Monday-Friday; 11am-5pm Saturday-Sunday. Group tours by appointment (call two weeks in advance).  
Admission: \$6; \$5 seniors, veterans, and groups; \$4 students; free for children younger than 5  
Legendary poet Walt Whitman was born in 1819 at this Long Island farmhouse, which is now the only New York State Historic Site listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It contains many portraits of Whitman as well as his original letters, manuscripts, artifacts, and a rare recording of his voice. The house hosts poetry readings, lectures, concerts, and other special events throughout the year. Note: Check the website for details on summer events.

**114 Washington Irving's Sunnyside**

3 W. Sunnyside Lane, Irvington  
914-591-8763; [hudsonvalley.org](http://hudsonvalley.org)  
**Guided tours:** May 4-Nov. 11: Wednesday-Sunday and Monday holidays at 10:30am, 12pm, 1:30pm, and 3pm. Group tours by reservation through December.  
Admission: \$12; \$6 children ages 3-17; free for children younger than 3  
A costumed guide leads a tour

through the home of the man who wrote *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle*. Many of the furnishings in the house are original, making it one of the more authentic examples of 19th century life nearby.

**Special Events:** Thursdays, July 11-Aug. 29: From a Child's Perspective: Children are invited to learn what life was like in the 19th century by exploring the home, playing with period toys and games, listening to stories, and participating in a scavenger hunt. 10:30am, 12pm, 1:30pm, and 3pm. \$12; \$6 for children ages 3-17; free for children younger than 3.

## 115 Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum

895 Shore Road, Bronx  
718-885-1461; [bpm.org](http://bpm.org)  
Hours: Mansion: 12-4pm Wednesday and Saturday-Sunday, year-round.  
**Guided tours** at 12:15pm, 1:15pm, 2:15pm, and 3:15pm.  
Admission: \$5; \$3 students; free for children younger than 6  
Thomas Pell bought this land from Native Americans as part of a 9,000-acre tract. The estate was reduced to 200 acres and eventually bought by Robert Bartow in 1836. The Grecian-style home with Greek Revival interiors became a museum in 1946. It is the last surviving architecturally important house overlooking Long Island Sound, out of more than a dozen that once existed.

### Special Events:

- April-December: First Fridays: On the first Friday of the month, take the Bronx Seaside Trolley from Pelham Bay Park Station to City Island. Spend the evening at the museum, which offers self-guided tours of the mansion, strolls in the garden, live music, and light refreshments. 5:30-8:30pm. \$10; \$8 for children; trolley ride is

free. Check the museum's website for the trolley schedule.

- June 9 and Oct. 26: Volunteer Garden Clean-Up Days: Families can pitch in to help maintain the grounds. 1pm. FREE.
- June 16: 1864-Style Demonstration Baseball Game: Spend Father's Day watching an old-fashioned baseball game. After the game, kids can play a game of rounders with the team. 1pm. \$10; \$5 children.

## 116 Lockwood Mansion Museum

295 West Ave., Norwalk, CT  
203-838-9799

[lockwoodmathewsmansion.com](http://lockwoodmathewsmansion.com)

**Guided tours:** April-January, Wednesday-Sunday at 12pm, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm  
Admission: \$10; \$8 seniors; \$6 for children ages 8-17; free for children younger than 8

This Second Empire-style mansion with Victorian-era furnishings and interiors was once home to the Lockwood family and, several years later, the Mathews family. Now a National Historic Landmark, it has survived threats from bankruptcy, demolition, and I-95, and it stands today adjacent to the Stepping Stones Museum for Children.

**Special Events:** April 17-Oct. 6: What Is It? Technologies and Discoveries of the Victorian Era: In this exhibit, cutting-edge Victorian Era precursors of some of today's modern technologies are on display, including telegraphs, dictaphones, gas lighting, and early examples of telephones, burglar alarms, and more. Free with admission. Wednesday-Sunday 12-3pm.

## 117 Old Westbury Gardens

71 Old Westbury Road, Old Westbury

516-333-0048; [oldwestburygardens.org](http://oldwestburygardens.org)  
April 29-Oct. 31: 10am-5pm daily (except Tuesdays); house opens at 11am. **Guided tours** (free with admission) are given every half hour (based on volunteer availability). **Garden tours** are given every day the grounds are open at 11am and 2pm (Sundays at 1pm and 2pm).

Admission: May-September: \$10; \$5 children ages 7-17; free for children younger than 7. April and October: \$8; \$3 children ages 7-17; free for children younger than 7

This Gold Coast mansion, located on the North Shore of Long Island, was occupied by the Phipps family for more than 50 years. It sits on 200 acres of formal gardens and is now a cultural destination spot for family programs and events, summer pop concerts, the annual Scottish Games, and educator-led talks and tours.

### Special Events:

- Wednesdays, July 10-Aug. 7: Picnic Pops Concerts: Settle in on the lawn for a dance lesson and concert featuring music styles ranging from jazz and swing to salsa and funk. 7pm concert; gates open at 5pm. \$10; free for children (with a paying adult).
- July 13: Teddy Bear Picnic: Children ages 3-6 can bring a stuffed animal and an adult for an afternoon in the Cottage Garden with finger foods, crafts, and games. 1-3pm. \$15 per child/adult pair (registration required).
- Aug. 24: Long Island Scottish Festival: The event includes bagpipes, parades, feats of strength, kids' games and activities, and Scottish-themed foods, music, clothing, and gifts. 8am-5pm. \$15; \$7 for children ages 7-17; free for children younger than 7.
- Sept. 22: Kidsfest: A full day of fun, music, and interactive educational games and programs. 10am-4pm. All activities are included with regular admission.

1777



Living history demonstrations are family-favorite events at Fort Montgomery.

1784



The Dyckman Farmhouse is an extraordinary reminder of early Manhattan and an important part of its diverse Inwood neighborhood.

1800



Costumed guides at Van Cortlandt Manor help bring the past to life by inviting visitors to explore old-fashioned tasks that were critical to daily life at the manor during its heyday.



Built between 1804 and 1808, Boscobel is considered one of the finest examples of Federal-style architecture in New York.

1868



The Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum illustrates the splendor of the Gilded Age. This summer, visitors can see Victorian-era technology on display in a special exhibit.

1836



Visitors are invited to tour the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and admire its mid-19th-century furnishings, or stroll around the grounds and the formal terraced garden behind the house.

1835



"It is a beautiful spot, capable of being made a little paradise," Washington Irving once wrote of Sunnyside. He designed the house and grounds himself, and together they form a three-dimensional autobiography for the famed writer.

1819



Visit the Walt Whitman Birthplace on Long Island to see where the legendary poet grew up.



Visit the newest destination in our area, Legoland Discovery Center Westchester. Only the fifth in the nation, this new 32,000-square-foot indoor space boasts more than 3 million Lego bricks and a host of fun activities geared toward children ages 3-10, including hands-on play areas, a 4D cinema, master classes led by Master Model Builders, two Lego rides, and special birthday party rooms. 39 Fitzgerald St., Yonkers; open Monday-Saturday, 10am-9:30pm; Sunday, 11am-7pm (last entry is approximately two hours before close). Find all the details at [nymetroparents.com/legoland](http://nymetroparents.com/legoland).

118

**BREW SOLAR TEA.** The mellower flavor of iced tea steeped in the sun is delightful, and non-caffeinated herbal teas can be enjoyed by your whole gang. We tested a variety of online “recipes” and recommend [tipnut.com/making-sun-tea](http://tipnut.com/making-sun-tea) not only for its ease and taste, but for the thoughtful comments about food safety, too.

119

**120 Take a class together as a family.**

Pack all of your beach and pool essentials into this adorable beach tote from Stephen Joseph (\$19.95; [stephenjosephgifts.com](http://stephenjosephgifts.com)). The tote is available in eight designs, including a mermaid, pirate, and friendly animals like this octopus, and each comes with a sand toy play set inside. To the beach!

121



**122 Thrill your whole brood with rides**

and adventure during a visit to one of the various amusement parks in our area. See our complete where-to guide at [nymetroparents.com/amusementparks](http://nymetroparents.com/amusementparks).

**Go fishing. 123**

**124** Visit a neighboring town and check out the sites.

125

**FULFILL YOUR KIDS' NEED FOR SPEED.**

You'll find fast-paced, family-friendly fun at Pole Position Raceway in Jersey City, NJ (201-333-7223; [polepositionraceway.com/jersey-city](http://polepositionraceway.com/jersey-city)), where you can zip around two indoor tracks on electric karts that rev up to 45 mph (20 mph for kids' carts). On select Mondays, the tracks are combined to form the Super “G” Track, the longest karting track in the country. Races are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and last about 10 minutes. At the end, each driver receives a spreadsheet showing his or her race results and statistics. All drivers must be at least 48 inches tall, and kids younger than 18 must have a parent or guardian sign a minor release liability form. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 12-10pm; Friday, 12-11pm; Saturday, 11am-12am; Sunday, 11am-9pm. Price: \$25 for adults and kids who are 58 inches or taller; \$22 for kids who are between 48 and 58 inches tall (member discounts available). Note: Junior and youth racing camps will be held in July; visit the website for details.



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## A Sampling of What You'll Find Now:

### Advice

- Tips for Cooking on the Grill
- Limiting the Sugar in Your Child's Diet
- How to Treat Feeding Disorders in Children
- Protecting Your Family from Lyme Disease

### Fun

- Outing: Legoland Discovery Center
  - Theater: *Old Hats*
  - Where-To Guide: Zoos and Botanical Gardens
- Plus ideas for what to do with your kids every day of the year (updated daily!)

**Local News, Business Openings, Contests, & Discounts**

### Blogs: [blogs.nymetroparents.com](http://blogs.nymetroparents.com)

- Mama Roode: 21st Century Parenting Thought Leaders
- Guest Post: How One Long Island Mom Got Her Family out of Debt
- Stuff We Like: Green Products to Make Earth Day Every Day
- Weekly Twitter & Web Roundups

**More than 2,000 articles there when you need them—updated DAILY!**

### Regional Guides:

Including local news, family resources, activities calendar, and everything you need to know, whether you're a long-time resident or thinking of moving to a new community.

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Queens	Nassau
Brooklyn	Suffolk
Westchester	Fairfield County, CT

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